

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 TRSE-00 INT-05 GSA-01

AID-05 /075 W

----- 124000

R 212103" JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7362

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS: ELAB EMIN VE

SUBJ: IRON MINES STRIKE PRELIMINARY EFFECT ON ORE
SHIPMENTS TO THE US

REF: CARACAS 762

1. BETHLEHEM STEEL REPRESENTATIVE IN CARACAS STATES HIS COMPANY
COULD SUSTAIN CURRENT WORK STOPPAGE FOR TWO MONTHS WITHOUT
EFFECT ON SPARROW'S POINT OPERATIONS IN BALTIMORE. ALL VENEZUELAN
IRON ORE PRODUCED BY BETHLEHEM/ VENEZUELAN AFFILIATE SHIPPED TO
THAT US MILL. REPRESENTATIVE STATES THAT SPARROW'S POINT STOCK-
PILED IRON ORE HEAVILY DURING 1974 IN ANTICIPATION OF HIGHER
PRICES THIS YEAR. STEEL PRODUCTION ALSO DOWN SOMEWHAT DUE TO
CURRENT STATE OF US ECONOMY. COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE, HOWEVER,
DOES NOT BELIEVE GUAYANA STRIKE WILL LAST BEYOND NEXT WEEK.

2. US STEEL REPRESENTATIVE DECLINED TO PROVIDE INFO ON
SIZE OF ORE STOCKPILE AT ITS BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA STEEL-MAKING
FACILITY. HE STATED COMPANY TRADITIONALLY DOES NOT MAKE THIS
INFO PUBLIC. HE AGREED THAT STRIKE WILL BE OF SHORT DURATION
AND PEACEFUL. BETHLEHEM REPRESENTATIVE INDICATED THAT US STEEL
MAY HAVE TIGHTER SUPPLY PROBLEM DUE TO ITS EUROPEAN CONTRACT
COMMITMENTS AND CONSEQUENTLY IS MORE VULNERABLE IF STRIKE

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WERE TO PERSIST BEYOND ANTICIPATED ONE WEEK TO TEN DAYS.

MCCLINTOCK

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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